



WORLD DISCOVERY  
— HISTORY CULTURE WILDLIFE —

## Ladakh – 'Little Tibet'



The dramatic setting of Spitok Gumpa

**DAY 1 - Depart UK.**

**DAY 2 – Arrive Delhi.**

On arrival in Delhi you will be met by a representative of World Discovery outside immigration and customs. You will then be taken by private car direct to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure.

**DAY 3 – Fly to Leh (Ladakh).**

Transfer to Delhi Airport for the morning flight to Leh, gateway to Ladakh, a land often referred to as 'Little Tibet' and closed to the outside world until 1974 when tourists were first allowed to visit. Situated amidst barren mountains at an altitude of 3,500 metres, Leh developed over the centuries as a trading post and market, attracting a wide variety of merchants - from Kashgar, Kashmir, Tibet and North India. Today it is an easy-going town of just 27,500 inhabitants. Because of the altitude you are advised to rest for a while on arrival. In the afternoon there will be a short introductory tour of the town.

**Meals included: Full breakfast, lunch, dinner.**

## DAY 4 – Sankar Gompa and Spitok Gompa.

In the morning you will walk for about 30 minutes through pleasant country lanes to the Sankar Gompa (monastery), which houses a remarkable representation of Avalokitesvara, the Buddhist god of compassion, complete with 1,000 arms and 1,000 heads. You will then be driven 8 kilometres to the west of Leh to visit the Spitok Gompa, built in the 15th century and perched proudly on a conical hilltop. There are superb views of the surrounding countryside from the monastery. Within the monastery is an interesting collection of masks, icons and arms including some rescued from the Potala Palace in Lhasa. Return to your hotel for lunch.

**Meals included: Full breakfast, lunch, dinner.**

## DAY 5 – Tikse and Hemis Gompas.

Rise early this morning to hopefully witness the 6.30 a.m. puja ceremony at Tikse Gompa, regarded by many travellers as the most beautiful of Ladakh's Buddhist monasteries. Continue to the famous Hemis Gompa, located on the west bank of the mighty Indus River some 45 kilometres to the south of Leh. Surrounded by spectacular mountain scenery, Hemis is the biggest and wealthiest of Ladakh's monasteries and is one of the highlights of a visit to the region. After your visit, return to Leh in the afternoon with further sightseeing en route.

**Meals included: Full breakfast, lunch, dinner.**

## DAY 6 – Lekir and Alchi Gompas.

A full day outside Leh today as you visit the remote monasteries of Lekir and Alchi. The picturesque white-washed Lekir Monastery was founded in the late 11th century and originally housed 600 monks. The building we see today mainly dates from the 18th century. The head lama is the younger brother of the Dalai Lama. Not far from here sits the Dharma Chakra monastery at Anchi, surrounded by a patchwork of cultivated fields. This large complex is regarded as one of the most important Buddhist centres in Ladakh and a jewel of monastic skill. Return to Leh in the late afternoon.

**Meals included: Full breakfast, lunch, dinner.**

## DAY 7 – Leh.

A break from visiting monasteries this morning as we invite you to take a scenic walk in the countryside close to Leh. The rest of the day is free, with the opportunity to browse in the Tibetan market or the handicraft stalls on Fort Road.

**Meals included: Full breakfast, lunch, dinner.**

## DAY 8 - Fly back to Delhi.

In the morning fly to Delhi and transfer to your hotel.

**Meals included: Full breakfast.**

## DAY 9 - At leisure.

At leisure in Delhi. We always recommend building in an extra day at leisure in Delhi as occasionally there are delays with the flights back from Leh and this extra day gives you a 'cushion' in case of problems.

**Meals included: Full breakfast.**

## DAY 11 – Depart for home

Private transfer to the airport for your international flight home.

**Meals included: Full breakfast.**